

a first plurality of said gaming terminals being eligible for a first progressive prize, based on first contributions from said first plurality of gaming terminals;

a second plurality of said gaming terminals being eligible for a second progressive prize, based on second contributions from said second plurality of gaming terminals;

said central computer receiving information regarding said first contributions and transmitting information, when said first progressive prize has been won, to indicate a win using said notification device coupled to one of said first plurality of gaming terminals; and

said central computer receiving information regarding said second contributions and transmitting information when said second progressive prize has been won, to indicate a win using said notification device coupled to one of said second plurality of gaming terminals;

wherein the same said central computer calculates both the amount of said first progressive prize, when said first progressive prize has been won, and the amount of said second progressive prize, when said second progressive prize has been won.

89. A progressive gaming system, as claimed in claim 88, wherein said first and second pluralities of gaming terminals have at least one gaming terminal in common.

90. A progressive gaming system, as claimed in claim 88, further comprising a cluster controller which receives contribution information from at least some of said first plurality of gaming terminals and transmits said information regarding said first contributions to said central computer.

91. A progressive gaming system comprising a central computer coupled, at least indirectly, to gaming terminals each of which is coupled to a notification device for indicating the win of a progressive prize;

a first plurality of said gaming terminals being eligible for a first progressive prize, based on first contributions from said first plurality of gaming terminals;

a second plurality of said gaming terminals being eligible for a second progressive prize, based on second contributions from said second plurality of gaming terminals;

said central computer receiving information regarding said first contributions and transmitting information, when said first progressive prize has been won, to indicate a win using said notification device coupled to one of said first plurality of gaming terminals; and

said central computer receiving information regarding said second contributions and transmitting information, when said second progressive prize has been won, to indicate a win using said notification device coupled to one of said second plurality of gaming terminal;

wherein each of said first plurality of gaming terminals, following play on said gaming terminal, provides an output indicative of a result of said play;

wherein said central computer repeatedly receives, stores or transmits information indicative of a decision as to whether said first progressive prize has been won; and

wherein said decision is independent of said result of play in any of said first plurality of gaming terminals.

92. A progressive gaming system as claimed in claim 91 wherein a decision that said first progressive prize has been won is made only after an event selected from the group consisting of a push of a button, a predetermined result from a spin of a wheel of fortune, and a draw of a predetermined token from a plurality of tokens.

93. A method for providing a progressive gaming system implemented using central computer coupled, at least indirectly, to gaming terminals each of which is coupled to a notification device for indicating the win of a progressive prize, the method comprising:

receiving, in said central computer, first information indicating contributions towards a first progressive prize from a first plurality of said gaming terminals eligible for said progressive prize;

receiving, in said central computer, second information indicating contributions towards a second progressive prize from a second plurality of said gaming terminals eligible for said second progressive prize;

transmitting from said central computer, when said first progressive prize has been won, information for activating at least one notification device coupled to one of said first plurality of gaming terminals; and

transmitting from said central computer, when said second progressive prize has been won, information for activating at least one notification device coupled to one of said second plurality of gaming terminals.

94. A method, as claimed in claim 93, wherein said first and second pluralities of gaming terminals have at least one gaming terminal in common.

95. A method, as claimed in claim 93, further comprising:
receiving, in a cluster controller, contribution information from at least some of said first plurality of gaming terminals and transmitting said information regarding said first contributions from said cluster controller to said central computer.

96. A method as claimed in claim 93, further comprising:
providing output, by each of said first plurality of gaming terminals, following play on said gaming terminal, indicative of a result of said play; and
repeatedly transmitting information to said central computer indicative of a decision as to whether said first progressive prize has been won wherein said decision is independent of said result of play in any of said first plurality of gaming terminals.

97. A method, as claimed in claim 96 wherein a decision that said first progressive prize has been won is made only after an event selected from the group consisting of a push of a button, a predetermined result from a spin of a wheel of fortune, and a draw of a predetermined token from a plurality of tokens.

98. Apparatus for providing a progressive gaming system implemented using a central computer coupled, at least indirectly, to gaming terminals each of which is coupled to a notification device for indicating the win of a progressive prize, the apparatus comprising:

means, in said central computer, for:

receiving, first information indicating contributions towards a first progressive prize from a first plurality of said gaming terminals eligible for said first progressive prize; and

receiving, second information indicating contributions towards a second progressive prize from a second plurality of said gaming terminals eligible for said second progressive prize; and

means, in said central computer, for:

transmitting from said central computer, when said first progressive prize has been won, information for activating at least one notification device coupled to one of said first plurality of gaming terminals; and

transmitting from said central computer, when said second progressive prize has been won, information for activating at least one notification device coupled to one of said second plurality of gaming terminals.

APPENDIX I

<p>93. A method for providing a progressive gaming system implemented using central computer coupled, at least indirectly, to gaming terminals each of which is coupled to a notification device for indicating the win of a progressive prize, the method comprising:</p> <p>receiving, in said central computer, first information indicating contributions towards a first progressive prize from a first plurality of said gaming terminals eligible for said progressive prize;</p> <p>receiving, in said central computer, second information indicating contributions towards a second progressive prize from a second plurality of said gaming terminals eligible for said second progressive prize;</p> <p>transmitting from said central computer, when said first progressive prize has been won, information for activating at least one notification device coupled to one of said first plurality of gaming terminals; and</p> <p>transmitting from said central computer, when said second progressive prize has been won, information for activating at least one notification device coupled to one of said second plurality of gaming terminals.</p>	<p>central computer = file server 32, floor controllers 18, 28. App. 15, 10.</p> <p>gaming terminals = gaming devices 12-16, 22-26. Fig. 1.</p> <p>notification device = display. App. 38, 10 or Bonus Pay. Table 1, App. 43, 26.</p> <p>coin in is transmitted to the floor controller. App. 40, 25 et seq.</p> <p>any machine on the network can be combined into a common progressive jackpot. App. 67, 23.</p> <p>coin in is transmitted to the floor controller. App. 40, 25 et seq.</p> <p>the floor controller can implement multiple promotions simultaneously. App. 70, 3.</p> <p>one floor controller can manage more than one progressive jackpot. App. 67, 26</p> <p>Bonus Pay at gaming device notifies player. Table 1, App. 43, 26</p> <p>Bonus Pay at gaming device notifies player. Table 1, App. 43, 26.</p>
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APPENDIX II

62. A method of operating gaming devices interconnected by a computer network to a host computer comprising:

- selecting a plurality of the gaming devices;
- using the network to track the amount of money played on the selected gaming devices;
- allocating a predetermined percentage of the money played to a bonus pool; and
- issuing a command over the network to cause the pool to be paid by one of said selected gaming devices upon the occurrence of a predetermined event.

63. The method of claim 62 wherein said bonus pool comprises a progressive jackpot and wherein the predetermined event comprises effecting a wager at said one gaming device which brings the pool to a predetermined level.

64. The method of claim 62 wherein said selected gaming devices comprise a group of gaming devices made up of less than all the gaming devices interconnected by the computer network.

65. The method of claim 62 wherein said selected gaming devices comprise a first group of gaming devices made up of less than all the gaming devices interconnected by the computer network and wherein said method further comprises:

- selecting a second group of gaming devices;
- using the network to track the amount of money played on the second group of gaming devices;
- allocating a predetermined percentage of the money played on the second group of gaming devices to a second bonus pool; and
- issuing a command over the network to cause the second pool to be paid by one of said gaming devices in the second group upon the occurrence of a second predetermined event.

66. The method of claim 65 wherein said second bonus pool comprises a progressive jackpot and wherein the predetermined event comprises effecting a wager at said

one gaming device in the second group which brings the pool to a second predetermined level.

67. The method of claim 65 wherein said selected second group of gaming devices comprise a group of gaming devices made up of less than all the gaming devices interconnected by the computer network.

68. The method of claim 67 wherein said first and second groups of gaming devices include different gaming devices.